



A-1
10/23/2012

Board of Park Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes

Tuesday, September 25, 2012
4:00 – 5:30 p.m.

Council Chambers
401 N. Morton St.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Carter at 4:00 p.m.

Board Present: John Carter, Les Coyne, Joe Hoffmann

Board Absent: Jane St. John

Staff Present: Mick Renneisen, Judy Seigle, Dave Williams, Becky Barrick-Higgins, Kim Ecenbarger, Bill Ream, Julie Ramey, Paula McDevitt, Robin Hobson, Bev Johnson

Consultant: Kevin Osborne, Rundell-Ernstberger and Associates

City Staff: Susan Failey, City Legal

A. CONSENT CALENDAR

- A-1. Approval of Minutes of August 28, 2012 Meeting
- A-2. Approval of Claims Submitted August 29 – September 24, 2012
- A-3. Approval of Non-Reverting Budget Amendments
- A-4. Review of Business Report

Mr. Coyne made a motion to approve the Consent Calendar as presented. Mr. Hoffmann seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

B. PUBLIC HEARINGS/APPEARANCES

B-1. Public Comment Period

B-2. Bravo Award – None this month

B-3. Parks Partner Award – None this month

B-4. Staff Introductions – Nikki Wooten, SPEA Fellow and Danielle Bolling ACE

Ms. Bolling addressed the Board and stated that she is the new Advocate for Community Engagement (ACE) for the Parks Department and the Banneker Community Center. Originally from Indianapolis, she is currently a freshman at IU majoring in Tourism, Hospitality & Event Management. She has been involved with many extracurricular activities including a freshman mentor, school ambassador, and a girl scout for 12 years. These activities have taught her life lessons and the value of community involvement at an early age. She feels very honored to receive the Cox Scholars Program ACE position. She plans to be very active during her time at IU and give back to the Bloomington community through her role as an ACE.

Ms. Wooten addressed the Board and stated that she is a first year graduate student at IU's School of Public and Environmental Affairs (SPEA) where she is studying policy analysis. She is passionate about cooking and is interested in the food industry, especially sustainable agriculture. She plans to get involved with the flourishing local food community during her time in Bloomington. She received her BS from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, where she majored in Political Science with a concentration in International Comparative studies.

C. OTHER BUSINESS

C-1. Review/Approval of Request for Fiber Easement at Twin Lakes Park

Ms. Failey addressed the Board seeking approval of Resolution 12-06 approving a temporary easement for fiber optic construction at Twin Lakes. She stated that Smithville Digital was contracted to install a fiber optic line to service the Twin Lakes Sports Park facilities in the summer of 2009 soon after the purchase of the TLRC. The fiber optic line ended with the boundaries of the parks property at that time. During the summer of 2012 Smithville expressed an interest in extending the fiber optic infrastructure to service apartments west of Twin Lakes. Following several discussions between the City and Smithville, it was determined to negotiate a temporary easement until a permanent easement can be negotiated following the realignment of 2nd Street/Weimer Road. This project is anticipated to begin in March 2013, at which time the permanent easement will be renegotiated and presented to the Board for final approval.

Mr. Coyne made a motion to approve Resolution 12-06 approving a temporary easement for fiber optic at Twin Lakes. Mr. Hoffmann seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

C-2. Review/Approval of Partnership Agreement for Pumpkin Launch Event

Mr. Ream addressed the Board seeking approval of the partnership agreement with WonderLab and Hilltop Garden and Nature Center for the Pumpkin Launch event. He stated that this event was brought back in 2011 due to strong public interest. Last year's event was quite successful with 7 launcher teams and more than 800 spectators. At this year's event, WonderLab will coordinate children's activities during the event and Hilltop Garden and Nature Center will host the event while Bloomington Parks and Recreation will coordinate all the logistics of the event. The event will be held on Saturday, November 3 at Hilltop Garden and Nature Center beginning at noon. The event includes distance and accuracy pumpkin launching competitions, a seed spitting competition, science related children's activities, and live music.

Mr. Coyne made a motion to approve the partnership agreement with WonderLab and Hilltop Garden and Nature Center for the Pumpkin Launch event. Mr. Hoffmann seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

C-3. Review/Adoption of Switchyard Master Plan

Mr. Renneisen stated in November 2011 the Board authorized the staff to proceed with a master plan for the Switchyard property. The Switchyard Park Master Plan project is a comprehensive study of the former CSX railroad property and adjoining Parks owned parcels totaling over 57 acres. The contract was entered into with Rundell-Ernstberger Associates who also partnered with several other sub-contractors. Public comment was received through a variety of methods, including a Citizen Attitude and Interest Survey, public meetings, stakeholder meetings, and input through the web site. Several City departments have also contributed for zoning, public and private economic development, and potential links for vehicular, bicycle, and pedestrian transportation. The Master Plan provides the department and City with a guide for future park development along with funding requirements, potential funding sources and logical phasing options to build and operationally sustain the property. He introduced Kevin Osborne with Rundell-Ernstberger Associates.

Mr. Osborne addressed the Board and stated that a great deal of public input has been obtained through this whole process starting with an inventory in October 2011, then analyzing constraints of the property in January 2012, the design work for the project started in June 2012 and since that time the final Master Plan document has been developed. The final meeting will be a presentation to City Council on October 3. The Master Plan includes three different vehicular entry points: one from Grimes, one from Walnut and one from Rogers. Starting at the north end at Grimes is a parking area that adjoins the B-Line Trail. This area includes a bicycle rental area, bicycle maintenance area, basketball and other courts, restrooms, community garden space, and a formal open lawn area for small events and festivals. Continuing south is the street skate park area, spray pad/plaza, shelters, the main entry from Rogers Street, large plaza space and a major open (great) lawn area that can provide for large events (up to 10,000 people), with a performance stage. This area also includes the restoration of the stream corridor. The southern end of the park has fewer active uses and includes a dog park. This part of the park includes a restoration of the Clear Creek Corridor with streams and trails. There is a total of 6 miles of trails throughout the park including, walking and biking trails. Mr. Osborne also demonstrated the flood plain areas that would require extensive restoration and stated there is already a good tree canopy in the area, in addition to 3.2 acres of wetland. The condition of the stream and stream bank is outlined in the plan and has recommendations for each area. Environmental

areas for remediation is also outlined on the plan with the most significant amount of remediation on the north end and is similar to what was done on the B-Line by removing a foot of soil and replacing with a foot of soil to cap it. This is an acceptable remediation treatment for what is being proposed. He displayed the flood insurance rate map and stated that consultants feel a LOMR (Letter of Map Revision) is advisable. Consultants feel that up to 42 acres of land could be removed from the floodway. The area within the park would include up to 19 acres in the park with only about .33 acres added to the floodway. Drainage can be handled through surface flow with permeable pavement areas and the rest treated through bio retention areas/swales. The utility corridor follows the path of the B-Line Trail. The Master Plan also includes potential plans for private and public development efforts and includes potential areas for residential, retail, entertainment venues, and mixed use development. He also demonstrated potential areas that could separate the park into four different phases for development.

Mr. Coyne stated that the Board has been very involved during the process and this plan includes many of their recommendations and ideas. He congratulated the consultants for a great presentation and plan.

Mr. Hoffmann added that he is also pleased with what he sees. Development of this park will take a long time to implement but feels it has tremendous potential for growth and vision for the future of Bloomington.

Mr. Carter thanked all of the partners involved, the staff, and the public that contributed to the plan. He feels the consultants did a great job of assimilating the information into a final presentation.

Mr. Coyne added that this plan shows how the Bloomington community comes together as a community along with the talented designers, planners, and staff.

Mr. Osborne added that he was also impressed with the amount of participation throughout the entire process. The ideas in the plan are the community's ideas and feels this has been a very worthwhile and rewarding process.

Mr. Renneisen stated that the next step is to review the plan by staff and feels the first step will be to pursue a letter of map revision. Staff feels this is an appropriate first step to begin the process and will require time and consultant work. This process can take up to 18 months. In addition, funding sources need to be researched and those various funding sources need to be prioritized to initiate construction of the various phases of the project. For example, the B-Line Trail was an 11-12 year project and was designed to be a 3-phase project. Funding sources made it possible to complete the trail in 2 phases. Staff will bring plans to the Board as opportunities arise. He added that the park is being referred to as "Switchyard Park" for now and wants the community to envision it as a "Central Park." There are potential "naming rights" opportunities for the park as well. He also cautioned that the community will need to remain patient as funding sources are identified before the project can begin. This project has a long-term horizon and has the potential to significantly change a large area of our community over time.

Mr. Coyne made a motion to adopt the Switchyard Park Master Plan. Mr. Hoffmann seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

D. REPORTS

D-1. Recreation Division – No Report

D-2. Operations Division – No Report

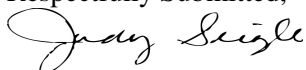
D-3. Sports Division – No Report

D-4. Administration Division – No Report

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Judy Seigle, Secretary Board of Park Commissioners